

Agenda Item: 4
Meeting Date: November 10, 2005

LEAD SCIENTIST REPORT

Description: Recent Science Program Activities

Recommended Action: This is an information item only.

Lead Scientist Recruitment Update

Science Program continues to work with CPS Human Resource Services on the recruitment of the Lead Scientist. CPS has received about 20 applications from prospective candidates. CPS and U.S. Geological Survey will perform the initial screening of applicants. The Selection Committee will start reviewing candidates that meet the minimum qualifications and will select candidates to interview in December or January. For additional information on candidate qualifications or to recommend qualified individuals for direct solicitation, please contact Stuart Satow at CPS (SSatow@cps.ca.gov).

Review Panels Update

- 1) **Interagency Ecological Program's (IEP) Pelagic Organism Decline (POD) Investigations:** The Science Program-sponsored workshop to review the IEP's workplan for Investigating the Pelagic Organism Decline was rescheduled from October 24 to November 14, 2005. More time was needed to complete analysis of the 2005 data before presenting the final results to the review panel. The review panel has agreed to work under a compressed timeline to meet IEP needs and will present its findings to the IEP Management Group by December 1, 2005. The panel's recommendations are expected to be incorporated into a revised 2006 workplan to be approved by the IEP Directors in January.
- 2) **Environmental Water Account (EWA):** EWA agency biologists and Science Program staff and science advisors are collaborating on drafting the agenda for a public workshop in December to review 2005 EWA water acquisitions and allocations. Detailed public notice and agenda should to be released in late November.
- 3) **Delta Science Panel:** Science Program is continuing its efforts organizing a technical panel to consider the current scientific understanding of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and to prepare a report that will be used to help develop a long-term Delta Vision. The panel will consist of scientists and economists with local knowledge and awareness of California Delta management issues. The panel will

review, summarize and synthesize information developed by the CALFED Program's science boards, other pertinent literature, and input from other Delta science experts when needed. As the development of that Vision proceeds, other more focused science panels may be convened to address new questions that arise. The panel's report is scheduled for late December or January. This effort is expected to complement and inform the Delta Vision policy discussions among the stakeholders and policymakers.

Update on Status of Independent Science Boards Organization and Structure

At the October 2005 Authority meeting, the Lead Scientist recommended moving forward with a smaller, more targeted ISB, and disbanding the existing Ecosystem Restoration Program and Water Management Science Boards. After further discussions with Authority staff, the Lead Scientist has reconsidered his recommendation and now proposes to defer reorganizing the science boards until a new Lead Scientist is in place, which is likely to occur within the next nine months. This would allow the new Lead Scientist to incorporate the outcomes of current CALFED reviews into recommendations for providing technical oversight and scientific integrity for the Program through science boards. In the interim, ongoing scientific and technical needs for the Program will be addressed by convening technical review panels and workshops.

Contacts

Stephen Ford
Acting Deputy Director for Science

Phone: (916) 445-0720

Johnnie Moore
Lead Scientist

Phone: (916) 445-0463